

Mason Neck, Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National  
Wildlife Refuges are all managed under Potomac River  
National Wildlife Refuge

Occoquan Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge  
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Woodbridge, VA 22191  
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Occoquan Bay

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Birds*



Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Twenty miles south of Washington, DC, at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan rivers, Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge is an oasis where migrating birds seek a quiet escape from development. Its diverse grasslands and marshes attract songbirds, raptors and waterfowl that depend on meadows and open water for their food, nesting sites, and a place to rest.



Donna Dewhurst

Red-winged blackbird

This checklist is the result of nearly 2 decades of “citizen science” to ascertain the presence, frequency of occurrence, and abundance of bird species in and around the refuge. To date, a total of 234 (87%) of the 270 species of birds listed for Prince William County have been documented here. This list is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists’ Union Checklist and the 47th Supplement (July 2006).

Most birds are migratory. Their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

Sp	Spring	March – May
S	Summer	June – August
F	Fall	September – November
W	Winter	December – February

Relative Abundance

- c Common-likely to be found in appropriate habitat
- u Uncommon-possibly present; not always observed
- r Rare-infrequently observed and not every year
- v Irregular Visitor-rare
- x Accidental-rare; outside normal geographic range
- h Historical-rare; not documented in recent years

Habitat Types (H)

- o Open water-bays and rivers
- m Marshes-tidal and non-tidal creeks and wetlands
- f Fields-cultivated or natural open areas
- e Edges-transitional zones, non-woody/woody vegetation
- w Woodlands-predominately woody growth

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
- ^ Observed in vicinity, but not yet at this site
- Italics indicate non-native species.*

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Geese, Swans, Ducks</b>					
___ Snow Goose	h				m,f
___ • Canada Goose	c	c	c	c	o,m,f
___ Tundra Swan	u		u	u	o
___ <i>Muscovy Duck</i>	h	h	h	h	m
___ • Wood Duck	c	c	c	c	m
___ Gadwall	u		u	u	m
___ American Wigeon	u			u	m
___ American Black Duck	c		u	c	m
___ • Mallard	c	c	c	c	o,m

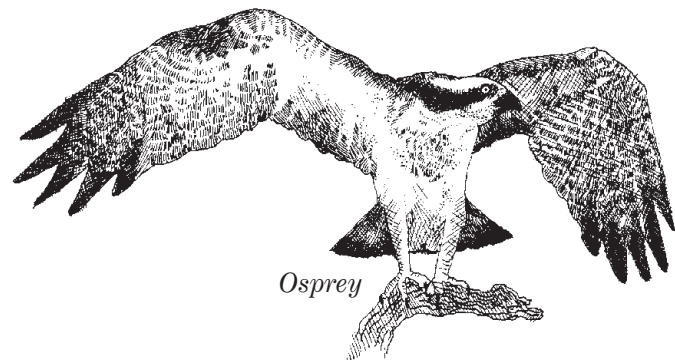
	Sp	S	F	W	H
___ Blue-winged Teal _____	u		u	u	m
___ Northern Shoveler _____	u		u	u	o,m
___ Northern Pintail _____	u		u	u	m
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c		c	c	m
___ Canvasback _____	u		u	u	o
___ Redhead _____	r		r	r	o
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	r		r	u	o,m
___ Greater Scaup _____	r		r	r	o
___ Lesser Scaup _____	c	r	c	c	o
___ Long-tailed (Oldsquaw) Duck _____	r				o
___ Bufflehead _____	c		c	c	o
___ Common Goldeneye _____	r			r	o
• Hooded Merganser _____	c		c	c	o,m
___ Common Merganser _____	c		u	c	o
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	u		u	u	o
___ Ruddy Duck _____	c	r	c	c	o

### Gallinaceous Birds

___ <i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> _____	h	h			f,e
• Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u	m,f,e,w
• Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	u	f,e

### Loons

___ Common Loon _____	u	r	u	r	o
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*Osprey*

### Grebes

___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	r	u	u	o,m
___ Horned Grebe _____	u		u	u	o
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	r				o

### Pelicans

___ American White Pelican _____	x				o
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### Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	u	o,m
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### Bitterns, Herons and Egrets

___ American Bittern _____	r		r		m
___ Least Bittern _____	u		u		m
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	c	o,m
___ Great Egret _____	c	c	c	r	m
___ Snowy Egret _____	v		v		m
___ Little Blue Heron _____	v		v		m
___ Cattle Egret _____	r				f
• Green Heron _____	c	c	c		m
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r		r	o,m
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron _____		h	h		m

### Ibises

___ White Ibis _____			x		m
___ Glossy Ibis _____		r			m

### New World Vultures

___ Black Vulture _____	u	u	u	u	o,m,f,e,w
___ Turkey Vulture _____	c	c	c	c	o,m,f,e,w

### Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles

• Osprey _____	c	c	c		o,m
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	r			m,f,e
• Bald Eagle _____	c	u	c	c	o,m
___ Northern Harrier _____	c		u	c	m,f
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
___ Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
___ Northern Goshawk _____				r	m,f,e,w
___ Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	u	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u		u	r	f,e
• Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	u	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Rough-legged Hawk _____	v			v	f,e
___ Golden Eagle _____	v				m,f



	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Falcons</b>					
___ • American Kestrel _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
___ Merlin _____	u		u	r	f,e
___ Peregrine Falcon _____	r		r		m,f,e

<b>Rails</b>					
___ • King Rail _____	u	c	u	r	m
___ Virginia Rail _____	r		r	r	m,e
___ Sora _____	r	r	r		m
___ American Coot _____	u		u	u	o,m

<b>Plovers</b>					
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	r				m
___ • Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c	m,f

<b>Stilts</b>					
___ Black-necked Stilt _____	x				m

<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>					
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	c	u	u		m
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	c	r	c		m
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	c	r	c	r	m
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	c	r	c	r	m
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r	r			m
___ Western Sandpiper _____	r		r		m
___ Least Sandpiper _____	u		u		m
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____			r		m
___ Dunlin _____	r		r		m
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____			h		m
___ Wilson's (Common) Snipe _____	u		u	u	m
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u		r	m,f,e

<b>Gulls and Terns</b>					
___ Laughing Gull _____	c	c	c	r	o,m
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		u	r	o,m
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	c	u	c	c	o,m,f
___ Herring Gull _____	c	r	c	c	o,m
___ ^ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____					
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	c		c	c	o,m
___ Least Tern _____	h		h		o,m,f
___ Caspian Tern _____	c	u	c		o,m
___ Black Tern _____	r				o,m

	Sp	S	F	W	H
___ Common Tern _____			r		o
___ Forster's Tern _____	c	r	c	r	o,m
___ Royal Tern _____	r				o

<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>					
___ Rock Pigeon _____	u	u	u	u	e
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w

<b>Cuckoos</b>					
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c		e,w
___ Black-billed Cuckoo _____	r				w

<b>Typical Owls</b>					
___ ^ Eastern Screech-Owl _____					
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	u	u	u	u	e,w
___ • Barred Owl _____	u	u	u	u	e,w
___ Short-eared Owl _____	r		r		m,f

<b>Nightjars</b>					
___ Common Nighthawk _____	u		u		m,f,e



*Killdeer*  
©June Henshaw



Blue jay

### Swifts

\_\_\_ Chimney Swift \_\_\_\_\_ c c c o,m,f,e,w

### Hummingbirds

\_\_\_ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird c c c f,e,w

### Kingfishers

\_\_\_ Belted Kingfisher \_\_\_\_\_ c r c c o,m

### Woodpeckers

\_\_\_ Red-headed Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ r r r m,w  
 \_\_\_ • Red-bellied Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,e,w  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker \_\_\_\_\_ r r u e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Downy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ Hairy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ u r u u m,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Northern Flicker \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Pileated Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,e,w

### Tyrant Flycatchers

\_\_\_ • Eastern Wood-Pewee \_\_\_\_\_ c c c e,w  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ r m,w  
 \_\_\_ • Acadian Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ c c u m,w  
 \_\_\_ Alder Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ r m,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Willow Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ u u m,e  
 \_\_\_ ^ Least Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Phoebe \_\_\_\_\_ c c c r m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ Vermilion Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ h f,e  
 \_\_\_ Great Crested Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_ c u u e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_ c c c m,f,e

Sp S F W H

### Shrikes

\_\_\_ Loggerhead Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ h m,f,e

### Vireos

\_\_\_ • White-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ c c u e  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-throated Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ u u e,w  
 \_\_\_ Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r r e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Warbling Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ u r e,w  
 \_\_\_ Philadelphia Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Red-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ c c c m,e,w

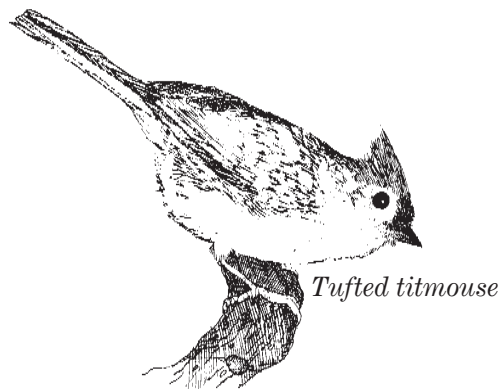
### Crows and Jays

\_\_\_ • Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • American Crow \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c o,m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c o,m,w  
 \_\_\_ ^ Common Raven \_\_\_\_\_



Northern mockingbird  
Robert Savannah

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Larks</b>					
___ Horned Lark _____	r		r		f
<b>Swallows</b>					
___ Purple Martin _____	c	c	c		o,m,few
___ • Tree Swallow _____	c	c	c		o,m,few
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _	c	c	c		o,m,f
___ Bank Swallow _____	u	u			o,m
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r				m
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	c	c		o,m,few
<b>Titmice and Chickadees</b>					
___ • Carolina Chickadee _____	c	c	c	c	m,e,w
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____				h	e,w
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
<b>Nuthatches</b>					
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	v		v		e,w
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w



*Tufted titmouse*

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Creepers</b>					
___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u	e,w
<b>Wrens</b>					
___ • Carolina Wren _____	c	c	c	c	m,few
___ • House Wren _____	u	u	u	r	f,e
___ Winter Wren _____	r		r	u	m,e,w
___ Sedge Wren _____			r		m
___ Marsh Wren _____	u		r		m
<b>Kinglets</b>					
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		u	u	m,e,w
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	u		u	u	m,e,w
<b>Old World Warblers</b>					
___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	c		m,e,w
<b>Thrushes</b>					
___ • Eastern Bluebird _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w
___ Veery _____	r	r			m,w
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	r				m,e,w
___ ^ Bicknell's Thrush _____					
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		r		m,e,w
___ Hermit Thrush _____	u		u	u	m,e,w
___ Wood Thrush _____	u		u		w
___ • American Robin _____	c	c	c	u	m,f,e,w
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>					
___ • Gray Catbird _____	c	c	c	u	m,e
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____	c	c	c	c	m,e
___ • Brown Thrasher _____	c	c	c	u	m,e
<b>Starlings</b>					
___ • European Starling _____	c	c	c	c	m,few
<b>Pipits</b>					
___ American Pipit _____	r		r		m,f,e
<b>Waxwings</b>					
___ • Cedar Waxwing _____	u	u	u	u	m,e,w

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Wood Warblers</b>					
___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	r				f,e
___ "Lawrence's" W. [BW/GW Hybrid] _____	r				f,e
___ ^ Golden-winged Warbler _____					
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	r		r		f,e,w
___ Nashville Warbler _____	r		r		f,e,w
___ Northern Parula _____	c	u	u		w
___ • Yellow Warbler _____	c	c	c		e,w
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Cape May Warbler _____			r		e,w
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u	r	u		w
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	u		u	c	m,f,e,w
___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	r		r		w
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	r		r		w
___ Yellow-throated Warbler _____	u		r		w
___ Pine Warbler _____	u		u		e,w
___ Prairie Warbler _____	u	r	u		f,e
___ Palm Warbler _____	c		c		f,e,w
___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	r				w
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		u		w
___ ^ Cerulean Warbler _____					
___ Black-and-White Warbler _____	u	r	u		w
___ American Redstart _____	u	r	u		e,w
___ • Prothonotary Warbler _____	c	c	u		m,e,w
___ Worm-eating Warbler _____	r				e,w
___ Ovenbird _____	r		r		m,e,w
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	u	r	u		m,w
___ Louisiana Waterthrush _____	u	r			m,w
___ Kentucky Warbler _____	r		r		m,e,w
___ Connecticut Warbler _____			r		m,e,w
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r				m,e,w
___ • Common Yellowthroat _____	c	c	c	r	m,f,e
___ Hooded Warbler _____	u	r	r		w
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Canada Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	c	c	c		f,e
<b>Tanagers</b>					
___ Summer Tanager _____	r				w
___ Scarlet Tanager _____	u	r	u		e,w



*Great horned owl*

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Sparrows and Towhees</b>					
___ • Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee _____	c	c	c	u	m,f,e,w
___ American Tree Sparrow _____	r		r	u	f,e
___ Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	u	u	m,f,e
___ Field Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e
___ Vesper Sparrow _____	u		u		f,e
___ Lark Sparrow _____				h	m,f,e
___ Savannah Sparrow _____	u		u	r	f,e
___ Grasshopper Sparrow _____	u	u	u		f
___ Henslow's Sparrow _____		h	h		f,e
___ LeConte's Sparrow _____			x		f
___ Seaside Sparrow _____	x				m,f
___ Fox Sparrow _____	u		r	u	f,e
___ • Song Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____	r			r	m,f,e
___ Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c	m,f,e
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	c		u	c	m,f,e
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	u		u	u	m,f,e
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	c		u	c	m,f,e
___ Snow Bunting _____			v		f

